

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 8-14 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13 have been amended. New claim 14 has been added. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting a telephone interview July 14, 2005. In the interview, the undersigned explained that the claimed embodiment, as recited in claim 1, uses two parameters (classification and status) for determining a business trip that requires reimbursement and that the cited references do not disclose such a feature.

Claims 1, 2-5 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garback in view of Taylor and further in view of Kitabayashi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Claim 1 is directed to a schedule management system comprising a plurality of terminal devices interconnected over a communication link for performing travel expense reimbursement processing. The claim recites, "...a computer readable medium including: code for determining whether or not a given item of said schedule information relates to said business trip schedule information or said non-business trip schedule information based on said classification data, wherein said classification data indicates whether or not the business event involved a business trip, code for determining whether or not the business trip indicated by said classification data was an authorized business trip based on said status data, code for comparing said travel expense reimbursement information and said business trip schedule information with each other to search for travel expense information that is associated with authorized business trips that have not been reimbursed, and code for determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed." None of the cited references discloses the use of the classification and status data in the manner recited. Claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 4 recites, "...an inputting means for inputting business trip schedule information including first classification data and first status data and non-business trip schedule information including second classification data and second status data, said first classification data indicating location of a business meeting, said first status data indicating the business

meeting that has been authorized." None of the cited references discloses the use of the classification and status data in the manner recited. Claim 4 is allowable.

Claim 8 recites, "...said schedule management system comprising: an external storage apparatus for storing a plurality of schedule information entries inputted from said inputting device of said schedule inputting terminal and travel expense reimbursement information indicating whether or not travel expense has been reimbursed, said schedule information entries including a plurality of business meeting entries of first type and a plurality of business meeting entries of second type, said entries of first type relating to business meetings that result in incurring business expenses and said entries of second type relating to business meetings that do not result in incurring business expenses, each schedule information entry having classification data that indicates a location of the business meeting; and a computer readable medium including: code for extracting only said entries of first type from said plurality of said schedule information entries using said classification data, said classification indicating whether or not a given entry of said schedule information relates to a business meeting that resulted in incurring a business expense." None of the cited references discloses the use of the classification and status data in the manner recited. Claim 8 is allowable.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garback in view of Taylor and Kitabayashi and further in view of Whitesage. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is allowable at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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Amdt. dated August 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2005

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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